



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Decision Notice for the Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association Deep Creek Range, Missoula, Montana

September 16, 2009

A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by FWP for the proposed purpose of granting \$16,796 in Shooting Range Grant funds to the Hellgate Civilian Shooters Association for the partial funding of a construction project to expand the Wilson range shooting line and construct a new 100-yard rifle range.

A Draft EA was circulated for public comment between August 7, 2009 and September 7, 2009. During this time period, notices announcing the comment period and the draft EA were placed on FWP's website and as legal ads published once each in the *Independent Record* (Helena; August 12) and *Missoulian* (August 11) newspapers.

FWP did not receive objections to the proposed project. We did receive a comment from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recommending that it is SHPO's position that *any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If any structures are to be altered and are over fifty years old we would recommend that they be recorded and a determination of their eligibility be made.*

As long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should structures need to be altered or if cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated.

FWP's response: there are no structures over 50 years old that will be impacted by this project. The department will pass along SHPOs comments to the club.

Based on the analysis in the environmental assessment and public comment, Alternative A is the preferred alternative. Under this alternative FWP will provide Hellgate Civilian Shooters a grant of \$16,796 as partial payment for the construction of the Wilson Firing Line extension and a new 100 yard range. There were no changes to the draft EA; therefore the draft becomes the final EA.

Kurt Cunningham
Shooting Range Coordinator